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Devoted to The
High-School-College
Entrance
Scholarship Fund

LATIN LEAFLET

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Give Good Ideas
a Chance,
Come Whence
They May

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The internal purpose of this publication is to provide a Clearing House for secondary classical teachers in New York and vicinity or anywhere else; to afford an opportunity to younger classical scholars anywhere for the publication of their more modest endeavors along the line of original work, which might not otherwise see the light; to stimulate the teaching and quicken the student activity in the classical work in the high schools of Greater New York. The external purpose is to establish one or more College-entrance-scholarships for the most successful graduates from high schools in New York City, to be awarded on a competitive examination. The proceeds over and above expenses will be devoted to a scholarship fund. The labor involved is a labor of love.

TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ARTHUR S. SOMERS, Central Board of Education
WILLIAM E. WATERS, College Entrance Examination Board

Important Notice

We have promised to make a full statement of the finances of the Scholarship Fund in No. 25, the last issue of THE LATIN LEAFLET for this year. It would be very agreeable to us if we could show every subscription to the Fund paid up, and there are but comparatively a very few subscriptions as yet unpaid. But while this would be very acceptable to us, we should prefer after all that you consult your own convenience rather than ours. We will carry your subscription over until Nov. 1, 1901, if you prefer.

Licet and Its Use*

[The following abstract of the article on the same subject published in the "Archiv für lateinische Lexicographie und Grammatik" (Vol. XI, 1898, pp. 9-26) was prepared by the author, Dr. E. B. Leese, for THE LATIN LEAFLET, at the request of the Editorial Committee, and is its first appearance in English.]

In preparing this abstract for THE LATIN LEAFLET the author has taken occasion to correct one statement in the original article: The first one to use *licet* with *ut* was Seneca rhetor. and not Optatus. Optatus as a matter of fact was the third to use the construction, Pliny the Younger being the second. He also wishes to add one example of *licet* with an imperfect Subjunctive (Mart. 9.91.3), a rare sequence; and to treat somewhat more fully the use of *licet* with an adjective or participle.

Licet belonged originally to a mercantile sphere, being applied to what was purchasable at a sale ("es steht zum Verkaufe veil"), and from the meaning "it is left free" (for sale) was easily developed the ordinary meaning "it is permitted". *Licet* is often used in comedy absolutely, both in questions and, more frequently, in answers, the connection indicating that concerning which permission is granted. Ter. Haut. 973 says: *Ere, licetne?* (May I say a word?) cf. also Ter. Andr. 803, *licetne pauca?* For its use in answers cf. Plaut. Amph. 544, and especially Rud. 1212-1226 where it is used no fewer than 16 times in question and answer: *Omnian licet? Licet.* In the answer it means, "You may", "permission is granted", "right willingly". The two constructions, with the Subjunctive and with the Infinitive, are already in use in Plautus. The form *licito*, probably after the analogy of *merito*, is found first in Solin. 11.8, later in Nepotianus 15.15. The Classical jurists used

licito iure (Ulpian Dig. 38.1.7.3). *Licite*, also, is found, Ulpian Dig. 32.11.14 and Augustine *De Civitate Dei* 1.9. The form *licitum est* has been productive of much controversy. Neue-Wagener (III³ 661) give quite an extensive list, maintaining that sometimes it is a present, sometimes a perfect. According to Buecheler (ad Carm. Epigr. 54.2) *licitum est* was a perfect before Cicero, and after his time a present. However this may be, the double forms *licitum fuit, fuerat, fuerit*, which can easily be paralleled with similar forms of other verbs, would speak for the perfect. Doederlein in his Latin Synonyms calls *licitum est* a poetical form, but our investigation of the field of Latin literature shows that it is rare in poetry. Schmalz regards it as a colloquialism, and other German scholars, as Manitius and Wotke, consider it an archaism. These latter views are more nearly right, but as the colloquial and archaic often overlap, it can hardly be said to belong to the one to the exclusion of the other. Cæsar, the purist, would not tolerate the form, and Cicero used it only in his early Speeches and in his Letters. Such was the feeling of these two writers for this form.

(A) *Licet* (impersonal).

Only four constructions are permissible:

- 1) With the Infinitive: *licet ludere*.
- 2) With the Subjunctive: *licet ludam*.
- 3) With the Infinitive and Dative: *licet mihi ludere*.
- 4) With the Infinitive and Accusative: *licet me ludere*.

The construction with *ut* outside of Zeugma (Cic. Mur. 8) does not occur until Seneca Contr. IX.5.8 (a statement of Gallio): *licet mihi ut prosim vim facere*; and Pliny Ep. I.6.3; afterwards not until Optatus Mil. 7.2. No other examples have been noted.

I *Licet* with the Infinitive. Here the question arises as to whether *licet* with a passive Infinitive is good Latin. Its use with the Infinitive is to be treated under the following categories: a) With deponents. Many examples are found, *uti* being most common (55), then *loqui* (40) and *frui* (20). b) With middle and reflexive verbs, as *invehi reverti versari dirumpi inclinari advolvi* etc. c) With *fieri*, a form sometimes active (=φύειν), sometimes passive (=creari). Livy, as is well known, uses it in 2.22.6 as an active, in 3.65.7 and later as a passive.

II *Licet* with a Passive Infinitive. This construction, though found in some of the classical writers, is not to be recommended. It was not until the time of Cornificius that we meet with a single example (I.14.24); Cicero, who introduces many new constructions, uses the act. inf. about 500 times, the pass. 50 times; the more conservative Cæsar uses the act. 22 times, but the pass. not at all; Vergil uses the pass. only once (Aen. III.46) to the act. 22 times; and Ovid shows 4 passives (Amor. 2.17.4; Trist. 2.263; Fast. I.47.11.521); Livy under the influence of Cicero uses the pass. 8 times (4 are *creari*), the act. 123 times. But the great stylists of the first century

* Reviews of the original article may be found in Archiv XI, p. 146, and Am. J. Ph. XIX, p. 214.

refused to accept the usage of Cicero: Seneca phil. uses the act. 200 times, the pass. once; Quintilian, the act. 80 times, the pass. once (in referring to the XII tabulae), and Tacitus, the act. 20 times, but the pass. not at all. The avoidance of the passive may be seen by the usage of the following writers, covering a wide field of Latin literature (the number of actives being placed in parentheses): Plautus (101); Cato (10); Nepos (13); Sallust (28); Horace (20); Tibullus (13); Seneca rhetor. (129); Vitruvius (20); Val. Max. (26); Lucan (24); Pliny the Elder (11); Sil. Ital. (18); Statius (27); Juvenal (13); Tacitus (20); Suetonius (10); Porphyrio (9). When the great purist Cæsar, one praised for the *elegantia* of his style, and the great stylists of the first century, Seneca, Quintilian and Tacitus avoid the use of the passive infinitive with *licet*, it must be relegated to the limbo of bad Latinity.

In regard to the origin of the pass. inf. with *licet*, it may be said that it did not arise from the use of deponents, or of *feri* with *licet*, or from Greek analogies, but from the use of *potest* with a passive.

III *Licet* with the Perfect Infinitive Active. This occurs chiefly in the poets *metri causa*, as Verg. X 14: *rapuisse licebit*. Other examples may be seen in Horace, Ovid, Lucan, Seneca, Silius, Martial, Juvenal etc. As the Latinity of the writers of the Silver Age was so extensively influenced by poetical usage, we need not be surprised to find sporadic examples in prose. Such occur in Seneca phil. (1), Petronius (1) and late writers (6).

IV The use of the Dative or the Accusative with *licet*. As one would expect, in works of a general character such as grammatical or rhetorical treatises, neither the Dative nor the Accusative is used, such works not being addressed to any particular person; e. g. Cicero uses the inf. (absolute) 40 times, the Dat. 21 times; Quintilian uses the inf. (absolute) 61 times, the Dat. 15 times. The contrast may be seen from Cicero, where the person is important; in his Speeches the Dat. is used 132 times, the inf. (absolute) 81 times, in Gaius the Dat. 28 times, the inf. (absolute) 11 times, while in the Digest the ratio is 221 Dat. to 197 inf.

If one compares the Dative of the person with the Accusative, one will see that the Dative is by far the prevailing usage; Cicero in his Speeches has 132 Dat. to 10 Acc.; rhetorical works 21 Dat. to 1 Acc.; philosophical works 51 Dat. to 6 Acc.; Letters, 42 Dat. to 5 Acc.; Cæsar 12 Dat. to 1 Acc.; Livy 59 Dat. to 1 Acc. The Accusative with the inf. act. is therefore to be regarded as an exception.

The predicate constructions appear in four varieties: a) Two Datives. This appears already in Plautus Epid. 338: *quieto tibi licet esse*; then 13 times in Cicero, once in Cæsar, once in Ovid, 9 in Livy, once in Val. Max., once in Seneca trag., once in Seneca phil., twice in Martial. A few cases occur in Livy where a person in the Dative may be supplied. The construction is also found in the Greek: Dem. Olynth. 23: *ὑμῖν* — — — *ἐνδαιμόσιον ἔξεστι γενέσθαι*. b) Dative with Predicate Accusative. This was a new construction introduced by Cicero. The date for the birth of this construction is 59 B C (cf. Pro Flacco 71). The construction also occurs in the Greek, Thuc. 4 20: *Λακεδαιμονίους ἔξεστιν ὑμῖν φίλους γενέσθαι*. Cf. Seneca Contr. praef. 24: *cui esse rectam liceret*. This construction is rare in Latin. c) Two Accusatives. A third construction begins with Cornificius (III 2 2). Cicero shows a few examples, Lucretius

and Livy one each; afterwards none occurs until late Latin. d) Predicate Accusative without a Subject. This is relatively rare. Cic. Lig. 18: *liceat esse miseris*. Cf. also Att. X 8 4. Catullus shows one example (X 34), Seneca phil. 2 and Tertullian one. e) The Predicate Dative without a Subject. This construction goes back to Horace Sat. I 1 19; *atqui licet esse beatis* (cf. also I 2 51). Ovid uses it (Met. 8 405). Livy also, cf. a) above and 3 50 6; Seneca Contr. 10 3 14: *si licuerit esse securis*. The mistake which Kühner made (Ausführ. Gram. II 500 n. c) has been copied into some of the school grammars; e. g. A & G 272 a n.: "When the subject is not expressed a predicate noun or adjective must be in the Accusative". As pointed out above, the Accusative also is found.

Licetum est with a pass. inf., it may be noted, is very rare, occurring only in Ulpian Digest 25 4 1 1: *si cui ventrem inspicere licetum non erit*. The desire for symmetry which led to the use of the form *coeptum est* with a pass. inf. and not *coepit* evidently had no influence upon the use of *licitum est* in this situation rather than *licuit*.

(B) *Licet* Concessive.

I *Licet* in Concessive Clauses. Here two things are to be taken into consideration: the mood and the tense. a) Mood. *Licet* as a concessive particle is firmly established in Cicero. But Cæsar, Hirtius, Sallust, Nepos did not use it. In poetry, however, it was used freely. Martial, for example, uses *licet* 54 times, about four times as often as any other particle. In later Latin, first in Appuleius, it was used with the Indicative. The Subjunctive does not depend upon *licet*; it is rather an independent potential. b) Tense. As *licet* is a primary tense, only primary tenses would be naturally found with it. Exceptions are rare. The author of the Bell. Hisp. uses *licet gestum esset* (16 3). Juvenal (13 56), Martial (5 39 8; 9 91 3) and Macrobius (1 7 4) depart from the classical path. The Christian fathers especially were sinners in this regard, not disdaining to use either an imp. or a plup. subj. with *licet*!

II *Licet* with Adjectives or Participles. a) With Adjectives. This use is never common, particularly with the superlative. Seneca Dial. VI 3 1: *licet contumacissimum*; it appears sporadically in late Latin. b) With a Participle. This construction was first used by Propertius and Ovid, introduced into prose by Seneca rhetor. The later writers both pagan and Christian used it more freely. I have noticed 29 examples in St Augustine's *De Civitate Dei*.

EMORY B LEASE

College of the City of New York

Notices

We are obliged to have subscriptions to THE LEAFLET begin with the first number of the school year, October 1, 1900 (or 1901), owing to expensive complications which would otherwise be introduced into our mailing lists.

As has been stated in a previous issue, THE LEAFLET does not appear during any week interrupted by a holiday. In this way the 25 issues for the year are made to represent as much of the academic year as possible.

Our New Trustee

It may be recalled that in an early number of THE LEAFLET the hope was expressed that the cooperation of the College Entrance Examination Board, recently organized, might be secured in settling the merits of the case in awarding the College Entrance Scholarship, for the founding of which three thousand dollars have now been subscribed. It will therefore be a gratifying announcement to the friends of our undertaking that we have been assured by Dr William E Waters, the Associate Secretary of the Board, that this cooperation will be cheerfully given. We are pleased to announce also that Dr Waters consents to become one of the trustees of the Scholarship Fund, a Scholarship Patron for five years, and also one of our contributors.